REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11 and 12 are currently pending in the subject application, and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11 and 12 have been allowed. Claim 2 stands rejected. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and comments herein.

I. Claim 2 is patentable over the combination of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,180,901 and 6,181,807.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,180,901 to Hiramatsu ("Hiramatsu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,807 B1 to Setlak, et al. ("Setlak"). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Applicant confirms the remarks in the Office Action dated January 12, 2005, which state that claim 2 is not limited to the use of one-dimensional scanners. However, Hiramatsu fails to teach or suggest scanning at least two biometric features simultaneously, using at least two practically identical biometric scanners, as recited in claim 2. Specifically, Fig. 3 and the corresponding description of Hiramatsu disclose two sensors, a pressure sensor and an authenticity sensor. The pressure sensor disclosed in Hiramatsu is employed to collect finger pressure data, (i.e. the fingerprint) when a finger is pressed on the pressure sensor (See Hiramatsu Col. 4, Lines 58-60 and Col. 5, Lines 40-47). The authenticity sensor disclosed in Hiramatsu is employed to collect authenticity data to determine if a finger placed on the authenticity sensor is a real living human finger, as opposed to a fake finger (See Hiramatsu, Col. 4, Lines 60-67). The authenticity sensor verifies that the finger is a real finger by verifying that the finger changes in color from red to white when the finger is pressed against the authenticity sensor (See Hiramatsu, Col. 2, Lines 63-68).

Nothing in Hiramatsu teaches or suggests that the pressure sensor and the authenticity sensors could be practically identical biometric scanners, as recited in claim 2. A pressure sensor clearly does not measure a change in color. Conversely, the authenticity sensor is a sensor that can measure a change in color, such as an optical sensor, and clearly does not measure pressure. One of ordinary skill in the art would not modify Hiramatsu in the manner suggest by the Office Action. Using two practically identical biometric scanners in Hiramatsu would render Hiramatsu inoperable for its intended purpose; namely, verifying that a finger is an authentic human finger via an authenticity sensor and determining finger characteristics via a pressure sensor. Since Hiramatsu teaches that two different types of information are measured (*i.e.*, a fingerprint and the color change of a finger), one of ordinary skill in the art would not use two practically identical biometric scanners to implement Hiramatsu. It is respectfully submitted that the suggestion that one would employ at least two practically identical biometric scanners in the system of Hiramatsu appears to be based on improper hindsight in which the missing motivation or teaching comes from the subject application and claim 2.

Additionally, as admitted in the Office Action, Hiramatsu does not teach or suggest processing data from at least two scanners, in at least two processors operating in parallel, to obtain biometric data that uniquely identify scanned biometric features, as recited in claim 2. In contrast to the contention of the Office Action, the addition of Setlak does not cure the deficiencies of Hiramatsu. Setlak discloses a plurality of parallel processors arranged in cooperating relation wherein each processor is assigned a particular index range to increase operating speed (See Setlak, Col. 6, lines 58-63). However, nothing Setlak teaches or suggests processing data from at least two scanners as recited in claim 2. In fact, Fig. 1 of Setlak illustrates parallel processing data from only one fingerprint sensor. Nothing in Setlak would teach or suggest the parallel processing of data from more than one fingerprint sensor. Accordingly, Hiramatsu and Setlak, taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the structural and functional interrelationships of claim 2.

For the reasons stated above, reconsideration and allowance of claim 2 is respectfully requested.

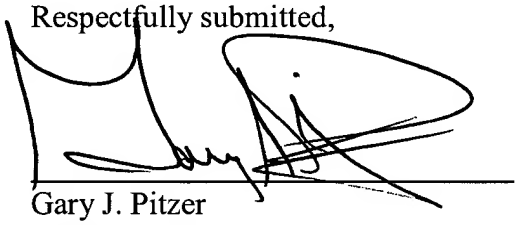
II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and that the application be passed to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions or if the Applicant or its representative can be of any assistance in connection with prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090

Respectfully submitted,



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